

Our Purpose

To examine Arizona Special Education State Board 401 rules, to propose rules that are clear, instructive, and aligned to the IDEA, and to provide guidance for implementation.

Core Team

Kristina Blackledge
Advocate & SEAP Member

Angela Denning
Arizona Department of Education
Deputy Associate Superintendent

Craig Carter
Director of Special Services
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Jan Cawthorne
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Sarah Gamble
Director of Special Education
Primavera Online High School

Kristen Hartsuff
Director of Special Education
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Lorrane McPherson
Treasurer, AZCEC

Kimberly Peaslee,
Parent & Chairperson of CAC & SEAP
Member

Heidi Sinkovic
Director of ESS, The Leona Group

Chris Tiffany, Raising Special Kids &
SEAP Member

Our Group Norms

- We engage in active listening
- We seek to understand
- We strive for a collective impact
- We honor the communication plan
- We support working for the greater good
- Our communication is timely and accurate
- We use rubrics to evaluate our work
- We need to learn and “unlearn”
- Reflection is critical to our success

Consensus--A two tiered approach:

The Core Team will work toward unanimous consensus on every issue. If not an unanimous consensus the group will use a supermajority vote (11/13).

Rule Committee – Core Team

June 15, 2015 Communiqué

Core Team Attendees: Mollie Casson, Lorrane McPherson, Kris Hartsuff, Wendy Collison, Craig Carter, Christopher Tiffany, Beth Conran, Sarah Gamble, Kim Peaslee, Kristina Blackledge

ADE Support Staff: Angela Denning, William McQueary, Maura Mall, Maria Durazo

Meeting Location: ADE at 3300 N. Central

You’ve got to think about big things while you’re doing small things, so that all the small things go in the right direction.

GOAL for Today:

What we did:

- Reviewed the feedback from the field and the online surveys completed to date.
- We reviewed the activities to date of the SLD sub-committee that is working on language for the guidance document. The target date for completion is the end of September.
- We asked about the work that is to be done relative to ARS 15-461.
- We decided to move the issues and requirements for Parental Consent to the Guidance Document.
- We determined that the proposed rule in standard proposed rule format will be sent to key attorneys for review when it is complete.
- The committee recommended gathering information from the field about SLD evaluation systems via survey before making any recommendations to the sub-committee.

What we learned:

- We learned that the SLD group is moving forward with developing proposed guidelines emphasizing Pattern of Strengths/Weaknesses (PSW) and Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) approaches for SLD determination.
- We learned that the review of definitions left the group with 2 terms. Further discussion on embedding these two definitions elsewhere in rule and/or guidance will be explored.
- In reviewing the survey results on definitions we learned there were some concerns expressed about deleting many of the existing definitions.

What we accomplished.

- We completed a partial draft of definitions after comparison and review of the definitions in ARS 15-761, survey results from the field, and the cross walk prepared by attorneys.
- We reiterated the committee’s commitment to remove redundancy
- Consistent with the committee’s commitment to remove redundancy and that “less is more”, we deleted terms that were redundant in IDEA and ARS.
- Notwithstanding another in depth review, the committee has nearly completed its formal work on R7 401. We are still awaiting final input from Early Childhood, the SLD sub-committee and the field.

WATCH FOR A NEW SURVEY LINK:

Watch for a link to participate in a survey regarding SLD Evaluation Procedures. We look forward to hearing from you!

Next Steps:

- The committee will review feedback from the field from the survey on definitions.
- The committee will seek feedback from the field via a survey about what would be needed to make a shift away from the achievement/ability discrepancy model for determining SLD. eligibility: psychologists, OT, PT, SLP, and IHE’s with school psychologist programs. Lorrane and William will create the survey.
- The next meeting of the committee will start at 9:00 am at ADE on Osborn.
- The committee will review the proposed rule for format, intent, and vocabulary.

Notes:

**Rule Making Core Committee
June 15, 2015 Communiqué**

We Want to Hear from You!

The committee is seeking input on Discipline by sending your comments to the ESS Inbox below or via survey link above.

Please send your comments to AZBoardRuleCommitteeInBox@azed.gov . We look forward to hearing from the community at large, Key Advisors and Extended Partners on our work to date and future agenda items. These documents along with key documents are posted on the website under Director's Corner at: <http://www.azed.gov/special-education/>